

1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary November 1944

NOVEMBER 1944

- 1st Nov. Area 114453,
0830 hrs. A German in civilian clothes was brought in by a member of the Dutch Resistance who had found him in HOOGEVAART 1146. He was identified as being from 476 G.R. 256 Div.
1200 hrs. Enemy shells and mortar bombs fell in "B" Coy area wounding 2 soldiers and 5 civilians and killing 2 civilians.
1830 hrs. "C" Coy reported 4 flying bombs or long-range rockets travelling W.
- Night 1/2nd. There was spasmodic shelling in the Bn. area during the night.
A recce patrol from "A" Coy went fwd. as far as the ZUIDER AFWATERINGS KANAL from 098493 to 118486 to look for suitable O.P's and snipers posts. None was found however as the whole area is open and under observation from N. of the R. MAAS the N. bank of which is much higher than the S.
A recce patrol from "C" Coy went to 128487.
Rifle shots were heard in areas 115492 and 110492 and H.D.T. moving W. to E. N. of the R. MAAS.
- 2nd Nov. During the morning there was spasmodic enemy mortaring and shelling in "A" Coys area.
1300 hrs. Enemy movement was observed by "A" Coy in the area of the houses 097497 and was engaged with 3" mortars.
- Night 2/3rd. Recce patrols were sent fwd. by "A" & "C" Coys to the ZUIDER AFWATERINGS KANAL. They had nothing to report except for a Spandau firing along the bank of the canal from approx.. 104495.
- 3rd Nov. 0710 hrs. "C" Coy observed a flying bomb travelling west.
- Night 3/4th. Recce patrols from "A" and "C" Coys to the Canal found no signs of the enemy.
- 4th Nov. A short Signals Course was started in the Bn.
"A" Coy established an O.P. at 098474 and observed enemy gunfire.
- Night 4/5th. The usual patrols were sent out by "A" & "C" Coys to the ZUIDER AFWATERINGS KANAL, neither of which had anything to report.
- 5th Nov. O.P's were established by "A" Coy at 097474 and by "C" Coy at 132469 to observe enemy gunfire.
1700 hrs. There was some shelling in "A" Coys area but no casualties were sustained.
- Night 5/6th. "A" & "C" Coys sent recce patrols up to the ZUIDER AFWATERINGS KANAL but neither had anything to report.
- 6th Nov. 0830 hrs. A tactical recce party left for the area of VLIJMEN 2647 which the Bn. was to take over from 51 (H) Div. meanwhile 5 R.T.R. had taken over the Bns. area and the Rifle Coys concentrated near Bn. HQ.
- 7th Nov. 0900 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave the area.

1100 hrs. having passed through SPRANG 1444, LOON-OP-ZAND 1539, DEN HOUT 2038, HELVOIRT 2640 and NIEUWKUIJK 2346 the Bn. leaguered with Bn. HQ at 241479.

1300 hrs. "A" & "B" Coys moved fwd. and took up posns. in the area of VOORDIJK 259491 – 272477 with HQs at 261475 and 269478 respectively. Bn. HQ was established at 265475 and "B" Coy and Carrier Pln. remained concentrated the respective HQ being at 242469 and 264472.

Area 265475.

1730 hrs. 13 Pln. "C" Coy travelling in T.C.V's through HERTOGENBOSCH went as a Bn. outpost to EMPEL 3251.

1800 hrs. 8 Pln. "A" Coy took up posns. as a Bn. outpost at BOKHOVEN 2751.

"C" Coy sent out a standing patrol for the night to track junc. 282500.

2030 hrs. Having moved up under cover of darkness "B" Coy took up posns. in the area of ENGELEN 2949 with Coy HQ at 298497.

A standing patrol was established for the night at 384511 and another was ferried across the canal and took up posn at track junc. 304503.

Night 7/8th. No enemy were seen or heard S. of the R. MAAS but movement was heard N. of the river and a gun was heard firing from area 325526.

8th Nov. 0630 hrs. The standing patrol from "C" Coy and the 2 from "B" Coy returned to their Coy areas and "C" Coys outpost at EMPEL 3251 was relieved by a Sec. of the Carrier Pln.

Area 265475.

1500 hrs. 4 P.O.W's from 1409 Fortress Bn. were taken by "B" Coy in the factory 307476 from where they had been sniping at a party of R.E's working S. of ENGELEN 2949.

1800 hrs. 14 Pln. "C" Coy relieved 8 Pln. "A" Coy in the Bn. outpost posn. at BOKHOVEN 2751.

The Sec. of the Carrier Pln. forming one outpost at EMPEL 3251 was also relieved by another Sec. of the Carrier Pln.

Night 8/9th. The same standing patrols went out as on the previous night the one at 282500 being supplied by "A" Coy and those at 284501 and 304503 by "B" Coy. The only signs of enemy was the movement of a tracked vehicle and horse drawn transport moving N. in the area 511526 heard by the standing patrol at 284511. In addition recce patrols were sent out by the Sec. of the Carrier Pln. in EMPEL along the rd. from 318513 to 307517 and by the Assault Pioneer Pln. through "B" Coy's area to 302511. Neither patrol saw or heard any signs of enemy but the Ass, Pnr. Pln. patrol located Teller mines at 303505.

9th Nov. 0730 hrs. 4 Deserters from 1409 Fortress Bn. gave themselves up to the Carrier Pln. in ORTEN 3148.

0815 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. and Coy Comdrs. left on a Tactical Recce to 131 Bde's new area W. of ROERMOND.

1500 hrs. A deserter in civilian clothing from S.S. NEDERLAND was handed over by a member of the Dutch Resistance.

1530 hrs. "A" & "C" Coys were relieved by the Lincoln & Welland Regt. of the 4th Cdn. Armd. Div. and concentrated in the area 261475. At last light "B" Coy and Carrier Pln. were also relieved and they concentrated in the same area.

10th Nov. 0845 hrs. the Bn. commenced to leave the area the Order of March being Bn. HQ, "A", "B", & "C" Coys & Specialist Plns. The Bn. followed the Div. axis through 'S HERTOGENBOSCH,

TILBURG, POPPEL 1320, MERKSPLAS 0011, LICHTAART 0396, GHEEL 0888, MOLL 1791, LILLE ST. HUBERT 4394, PEER 4184, & KINROY 6185 to 131 Bde. Disposal Point 653850.

1815 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 675864 & the Rifle Coys. Commenced to take over posns. of 1 BN. H.L.I. of 53 (W) Div. HQ's were established as follows:- "A" Coy 682875, "B" Coy 677867, "C" Coy 682865 and Carriers Pln. 676863.

Night 10/11th. "B" Coys contact patrol to 10 Pln. at 688871 at 0040 hrs. had nothing to report but "C" Coy. Contact patrol to 689859 at 0430 hrs. reported movement in area 684863. This was believed to be a strong enemy patrol moving N.E. but nothing more was seen or heard of it.

11th Nov. 0930 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.

1000 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group after which slight alterations were made in the Coys posns. "A" Coy HQ moved to 677867 with Plns. in posn. at 679874, 675869 and 683869, "B" Coy established its HQ at 678866 with Plns. at 688870, 685865 and 689859, "C" Coy HQ moved to 677864 and Plns to 682863, 686858 and 678859. Carrier Pln. HQ remained at 676863 with 1 Sec. occupying area of BAARSTRAAT 683875.

1600 hrs. 1 Sgt. and 12 O.R's arrived at Bn. HQ as reinforcements.

Throughout the day about 6 enemy in the area of the lock 689879 were kept under observation by "A" Coy and the fwd. Carrier Sec.

The enemy were engaged by 3" mortars but the results could not be seen.

Night 11/12th. A Recce patrol sent out by "A" Coy located a small number of enemy in area 687877 presumably the same as those seen during the day.

"B" Coy's recce patrol went through the woods in the area 693874 and found a route for 1/7th Queen's to carry assault boats to the canal near the lock.

"C" Coy sent a recce patrol to the area S. of WESSEM 7086 in which fires were seen to be burning but there were no signs of any enemy.

During the night 3 rifle shots were fired at "A" Coy's HQ from the direction of the lock 691879.

12th Nov. 0830 hrs. There was considerable enemy shelling in Bn. HQ area in THORN 6786 and several hits were scored on the church.

0930 hrs. During the day 11 Pln. "B" Coy's O.P. in the concrete works 689859 located enemy pill boxes at 707852, 701839 and 698872 and saw enemy movement round the house at 705845. Bearings were also taken of enemy gun & mortar posns.

Night 12/13th. "A" Coy sent a patrol to recce the canal bank in the area of the Concrete Works 697874 and to report on the condition of the bank and approaches with a view to the building of a bridge. No enemy were seen or heard during the time of the recce.

"B" Coy's recce patrol went to the blown bridge at 701863 and rd. junc. 701867. It was unable to progress further as search lights from 703874 and 708870 lit up the area N.W. of WESSEM. Enemy movement was heard in the outskirts of WESSEM. The patrol also found felled trees forming rd. blocks at 700863 – 702863.

"C" Coy's patrol recced the area of KALVER-WEIDE (Western half square 7085) but did not see or hear any signs of enemy.

13th Nov. 0715 hrs. When a patrol from "B" Coy went fwd. with the Arty. F.O.O. to the Concrete Works 689859 it came under enemy mortar fire which caused five casualties.

1630 hrs. C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.

1700 hrs. "C" Coy 1/7th Queen's took over the area occupied by "A" Coy N. of THORN and the area of BAARSTRAAT occupied by a Carrier Sec. "A" Coy then moved back to the area of KESSENICH 6685 with HQ at 663854. One Carrier Sec. remained covering the bridge 677862 while the remaining two Secs. & Carrier Pln. HQ moved to the area of GEISTINGEN 6583, Pln. HQ being at 653836.

Night 13/14th. A recce patrol from "B" Coy went to the Concrete Wks. 695874 and to the mound 698872 and found neither occupied by the enemy.

"C" Coy's recce patrol went to the windmill 705867 and found the area clear of enemy but were unable to continue to the R. MAAS as the open ground was lit up by a search light. The Assault Pioneer Pln. sent out a recce patrol to the river basin 7085 where they saw or heard no signs of the enemy. Enemy M.T. was heard however moving from N. to S. in area 6883.

A small enemy patrol was sighted in front of "C" Coy 1/7th Queen's but after a 36 grenade was thrown nothing more was seen or heard of the patrol.

13th Nov. During the morning Carrier Pln. concentrated in the Bn. area as a preliminary move for 1/7th Queen's Operation WINDSOR I. Pln. HQ was established at 666858 with Secs. At 667856, 669859 and 677862.

1600 hrs. 1 Sec. of the mortar pln. was u/c of 1/7th Queen's for their Operation and fired in Support.

Night 14/15th. "A" Coy sent a recce patrol to the area of the ferry.

"B" Coy's recce patrol went to the area of WESSEM 7086. Mines were found in the rd. at 700863. Patrol waded stream at 701864 and lay up for 30 mins. Listening during which time much movement was heard in WESSEM,

When patrol continued to 703864 three shots were fired over their heads so patrol returned. A recce patrol from "C" Coy also went to the area of WESSEM and heard movement at the Southern approaches to the village.

Recce patrols went out twice during the night between the Carrier Secs. At 669859 and 677862 without meeting any enemy.

Throughout the night there was intermittent shelling in the Bn. area.

15th Nov. 1045 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ after which an "O" Group and patrol conference was held by the C.O.

During the morning there was occasional enemy shelling in the Bn. area.

1600 hrs. "C" Coy relieved "C" Coy 1/7th Queen's in its area N. of THORN with Coy HQ at 677867.

2 Secs. Of Carrier Pln. occupied the area of the windmill 676868 and the remaining Sec. covered the bridge 677862. Pln. HQ was established at 675864 while Bn. HQ moved to 676862.

2100 hrs. "A" Coy moved up from KESSENICH and relieved "D" Coy 1/7th Queen's in the area of the lock 689879.

Night 15/16th. Recce patrols were sent to WESSEM and to the Concrete Wks. 696874 by "B" and "C" Coys respectively. Both areas were found to be still occupied by the enemy.

16th Nov. 1630 hrs. 23 Reinforcements arrived at Bn. HQ.

After a recce patrol had been to the Concrete Wks. 696874 and found it clear of enemy 2 Plns. of "C" Coy occupied the area of the wks.

A similar patrol from "B" Coy found WESSEM also clear and the village was occupied by "B" Coy.

"A" Coy sent a patrol across the lock 689879 to deal with enemy snipers who had been active during the day but they could not be found. Contact was made however with the unit of 53 (W) Div. who had occupied PANHEEL 6988.

Night 16/17th. There was occasional shelling in area of THORN during the night.

17th Nov. During the morning "A" Coy sent a fighting patrol across the lock 689879 and rounded up 7 P.O.W's all of whom were from GRAFING Bn. of the HERMANN Regt. 344 Div. Snipers with "B" Coy in WESSEM killed 4 enemy in area 712863 – 712858 where there were dug in posns.

1400 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group after which Coy posns. were changed as follows:- "A" Coy moved to 703862 with Plns. at 689858, 694855 and 698858, "B" Coy remained in the village of WESSEM with Coy HQ at 703863, "C" Coy HQ remained at 677867 but Plns. took up posns. at 688869, 698873 and 704869.

Carrier pln. HQ moved to 685875 with 2 Secs. Which maintained a standing patrol at the Southern end of the lock 689879, the third Sec. remained covering the bridge at 677862.

18th Nov. Coys remained in their posns. throughout the day which was quiet.

19th Nov. Throughout the day enemy were seen in defensive posns. extending from 717864 to 708851 and were engaged by arty. and snipers,

WESSEM was subjected to enemy mortaring and shelling at intervals during the day.

1520 hrs. Enemy movement was observed by "B" Coy at 725865 and was engaged by 3 R.H.A.

1630 hrs. 19 reinforcements arrived at Bn. HQ.

2200 hrs. An enemy patrol 12 strong was observed by "B" Coy preparing to cross the R. MAAS at the ferry 707863. They were immediately engaged by Bren guns, 2" Mortars and a P.I.A.T. It is believed that some casualties were inflicted as screams were heard and the enemy patrol withdrew to MAASBRACHT 7085 undercover of darkness.

20th Nov. "B" Coy observed an enemy patrol of 12 men on the E. bank of the R. MAAS in the same area as on the previous night. When fired on by Brens the enemy took cover in slit trenches in which they stayed when fired on by 2" mortars. 3 R.H.A. then brought down a conc. which caused the enemy to take cover in the orchard area 715864 where they were engaged by 3" mortars. "B" Coy reported that 6 of the enemy were killed,

21st Nov. 1020 hrs. 4 enemy were seen by "B" Coy (11 Pln.) cycling along the E. bank of the R. MAAS 11 Pln. opened fire killing 1 of the enemy.

22nd Nov. Coys remained in their posns. during the day and nothing of note was reported.

23rd Nov. 0325 hrs. An Enemy patrol attacked 7 Pln. "A" Coy at 693854 taking prisoner two men from the fwd. sec. and wounded one other. When the remainder of the pln. opened fire with Brens the enemy patrol withdrew to the R. MAAS. At the same time an illuminating flare was fired

from the further bank whereupon 7 pln. was subjected to accurate shelling under cover of which the enemy patrol got away.

0800 hrs. Carrier pln. relieved "C" Coy 1/7th Queen's and Sections took up posns. covering the bridge 677862 and in the orchards 678856 & 686858.

1100 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.

1515 hrs. The Div. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.

24th Nov. Coys remained in posn. and no incidents were reported.

Night 24/25th. "B" HQ at WESSEM 7086 was shelled during the night causing slight damage and 1 O.R. was wounded. Carrier pln. reported movement of M.T. in area STEVENSWEERT 6783.

25th Nov. Coys remained in posns. and no incidents were reported.

Night 25/26th. An officer recce patrol from "C" Coy patrolled to area of ferry 673833 and to contact Tp. of 11 Hussars on Bn's right flank at 660837. They reported no enemy seen and no incidents.

26th Nov. 1045 hrs. Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.

1300 hrs. Bn. received 45 reinforcements.

1700 hrs. Enemy transport reported at 709851 were engaged by 3 R.H.A.

Night 26/27th. "C" Coy reported considerable M.T. and H.T. on Coy front also possible A.F.V's and at 0100 hrs. a large explosion from the direction of R. MAAS, a considerable rise in water and flooded areas were also reported during the early hrs. of morning.

"C" Coy patrol to ferry 673833 and back reported N.T.R.

27th Nov. 1300 hrs. Slight shelling of "C" Coy area caused 3 casualties.

1700 hrs. Bn. received 25 reinforcements.

During the afternoon Coy posns. were changed and posns. at night were as follows:- Bn. HQ 676862, "A" Coy 674865, "B" Coy 704864, "C" Coy 677867 with 1 pln. in "B" Coy area at WESSEM 7086 "D" Coy which had been formed from reinforcements was brought up from Bn's A2 Echelon and HQ was established at 673868.

Carrier Pln. HQ was at 676864.

Night 27/28th. Coys reported no incidents during the night.

28th Nov. 1300 hrs. "B" Coy reported one Sec. of enemy at 737856.

These were engaged by 3 R.H.A. H.D. vehicles were heard in the same area also M.T. vehicles believed to be an ambulance. More movement and troops were heard and observed during the afternoon and were engaged by arty.

1530 hrs. An enemy O.P. opposite WESSEM 7086 was engaged with success by 20mm guns of the Bn's Assault Pioneers.

1715 hrs. WESSEM 7986 was shelled by one gun firing approx.. 8 shells with delayed action fuses.

Night 28/29th. Coys reported N.T.R. during the night.

29th Nov. 1630 hrs. "B" Coy in WESSEM 7086 was relieved by a Coy of the Ox & Bucks L.I. of 71 Bde. 53 (W) Div. and conc. for the night in THORN 6786 with Coy HQ at 678866.

30th Nov. 1000 hrs. 12 reinforcements were received at Bn. HQ.

1130 Hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave the its area the Order of March being "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys Bn. HQ, Carrier,,, Mortar and A/Tk. Plns. The Bn. passed through ITTERVOORT 6687, KINROY 6084 & MAESEYCK 6379 and reached its conc. Area in EELEN 6176 at 1245 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 615763.

Area 615763.

1500 hrs. The C.O. addressed the Bn. and stated that it was to be disbanded in the very near future but that a nucleus would return to the UK as a training cadre.

ORDER OF BATTLE

1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment

Week ending 11th November 1944.

Bn. HQ.

Lieut.-Col.	J. H. Mason, DSO	C.O.
Major	W. L. Johnson MC	2i/c
Capt.	P. Kime MC	Adjt.
Lt.	C.A. Marvin	I.O

HQ Coy.

Major	J. Tack	O.C.
Capt.	H.E. Weatherill	2i/c P.R.I.
Lt.	R. J.G. Duns	A/Tk. Pln.
Capt.	A. F. Perdue	Carrier Pln.
Lt.	G. E. T. Roache	Assault Pioneer Pln.
Lt.	L. G. Woodbury	2 i/c Mortar Pln
Capt.	H. S. Morshead	M.T.O.
Lt.	J.A. Knight	R.S.O.
Lt. & QM	C. W. Litton	Q.M. & Capt.

"A" Coy.

Major	L. C. Young	Capt.	C. V. Lilley
Capt.	N. E. Aldridge	Capt.	C. H. Nice
Lieut.	H. W. Longstaff	Lt.	M. B. Marsh
Lt.	J.E. Greenslade	Lt.	W.S. Spencer
Lt.	R. H. Smith	Lt.	J.W. Thomas

"C" Coy.

Major	G. A. R. N. Warren
Capt.	F. W. Holder
Capt.	E. Brown (Cdn.)

"D" Coy

Major	V.R. Goodridge
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Lieut. L. A. Stilling (Cdn.)
Lieut. G. N. Wise

Recently Attached

Capt. The Rev. J.W. Devine
Lieut. W.H. Hope R.A.M.C.